DEATH BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO THE SURVIVING FAMILIES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WHO HAVE DIED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

STATE DEATH BENEFITS
The Claims Commission is authorized to hear and determine claims arising as a result of the death of any policeman, firefighter, or other specified governmental employees killed in the line of duty or permanently disabled from continuing to hold the position held when injured. The State shall pay a specified sum upon establishment of proof that either death or disability was attributed directly to employment.

The amount paid is subject to legislative change. At present, the sum of $50,000 to $200,000 (dependent upon the circumstances of the death) for death claims upon satisfaction that the death occurred in the official line of duty/hazardous duty as established by the General Assembly.

For more information contact the Arkansas Claims Commission, 101 E. Capitol Ave, Little Rock, AR, 72201. Office: (501) 682-1619. [Website](https://arclaimscommission.arkansas.gov/)

EDUCATION BENEFITS
Surviving spouses and dependent children are, under specific statutory provisions and circumstances, eligible for college scholarships to an Arkansas public institution as provided by law. These scholarships are awarded by the Claims Commission and, once awarded, are administered by the Department of Higher Education. To apply for this benefit for covered Children, the Commission requires the submission of a certified birth certificate.

For more information contact the Arkansas Claims Commission, 101 E. Capitol Ave, Little Rock, AR, 72201. Office: (501) 682-1619. [Website](https://arclaimscommission.arkansas.gov/)

CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS – provides financial assistance of up to $1,500 per semester to surviving children and surviving spouses of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty, according to C.O.P.S. criteria, who wish to pursue a course of study beyond high school. Since there is a tuition-free education benefit available in your state, you must first apply for and be denied by the state or the institution to be eligible for the C.O.P.S. scholarship.

How to Apply: [Website](https://www.concernsofpolicesurvivors.org/scholarship)

CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS (C.O.P.S.)
(573) 346-4911
COPS@NATIONALCOPS.ORG
CONCERNSOFPOLICESPANAMAN.ORG
This information is compiled by National C.O.P.S.

Revised 2020
The PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS' EDUCATION ASSISTANCE (PSOEA) Program provides financial assistance, for the purpose of seeking higher education, to the spouses and eligible children of local police, fire, and emergency public safety officers who have been killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty.

Educational assistance through the PSOEA Program is available after the Public Safety Officers' Benefit (PSOB) death or disability claim process has been completed and benefits have been awarded.

Visit https://psob.bja.ojp.gov/ for more information and the application or call the PSOB Office toll-free at 1-888-744-6513 to discuss the requirements for receiving PSOEA benefits.

KIDS CHANCE OF ARKANSAS - To be eligible for a scholarship grant, applicants must have a parent who has been killed or seriously injured as a result of a work related incident that meets the criteria of the Arkansas Workers' Compensation Act and that has resulted in demonstrated financial need.

For more information or to apply, visit https://www.kidschancear.org/

WORKERS’ COMPENSATION
Workers’ compensation coverage is compulsory for most employers in Arkansas. A spouse receives 35% of the employee’s average weekly wage, and a child receives 15% of the employee’s average weekly wage. Benefits cannot be higher than 66 2/3% of the employee’s average weekly wage or the maximum benefit rate in effect on the date of the injury. To receive workers' compensation benefits, the surviving spouse or other dependent must take the initiative and file a workers' compensation claim.

For more information contact the Workers' Compensation Commission at 324 Spring Street, PO Box 950, Little Rock, AR 72203. Office: (501) 682-3930 or (800) 622-4472. http://www.awcc.state.ar.us/

STATE LIFE INSURANCE - RETIREMENT
Check with your agency to see if you are eligible for State Life Insurance or death benefits from a Retirement system. You can also visit the individual systems listed below.

Arkansas Local Police & Fire Retirement System (LOPFI) https://loffi-prb.com/
Arkansas State Police Retirement System (APERS) https://www.apers.org/asprs

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS’ BENEFITS (PSOB) PROGRAM
A unique effort of the U.S. Department of Justice; local, state, tribal, and federal public safety agencies; and national organizations, the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB)

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Revised 2020
Program provides death and education benefits to survivors of fallen law enforcement officers, firefighters, and other first responders, and disability benefits to officers catastrophically injured in the line of duty.

The claim has two parts (A&B) that require the agency and family to fill out online. Visit https://psob.bja.ojp.gov/ for additional filing information. If you need assistance filing this claim, contact the National C.O.P.S. office at (573) 346-4911 or cops@nationalcops.org

**FUNERAL BENEFITS**

**WORKERS COMPENSATION** – A maximum of $6,000 is available for burial expenses. Please see Workers’ Compensation section.

**DIGNITY MEMORIAL FUNERAL, CREMATION AND CEMETERY** providers created the Public Servants Program for emergency service personnel. This program provides dignified and honorable tributes, at no cost, for career and volunteer law enforcement officers who fall in the line of duty. Visit their website for complete information at https://www.dignitymemorial.com/ and look under Public Servants for details. You may also call 800-344-6489 and speak with a representative.

**WILBERT FUNERAL SERVICES, INC.** provides complimentary burial vaults and related services for fallen law enforcement officers. For more information visit https://www.wilbert.com/ or call (888) WILBERT.

**ADDITIONAL BENEFITS**

**PEER SUPPORT ORGANIZATION**

**CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS INC., (C.O.P.S.).** is a national, non-profit organization that works with law enforcement agencies, police organizations, mental health professionals, and local peer-support organizations to provide assistance to surviving families of law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty. C.O.P.S. provides Hands-On Programs, training for law enforcement, National Police Week registration/accommodations, scholarships, counseling and so much more to surviving families and co-workers.

Contact the C.O.P.S. National Office (800) 784-2611, email cops@nationalcops.org or visit https://www.concernsofpolicesurvivors.org/local-chapters for information on a chapter in your area. Office hours are Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. CST.

**SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFIT**

Spouses, children, or parents may be eligible for Social Security Benefits. To apply for benefits, call (800) 772-1213 to speak to a Social Security representative or visit your local Social Security Office. You cannot report a death or apply for survivors benefits online. Visit https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/survivors/ifyou.html#h6 for more information.
ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION, when any State police officer loses his or her life in the course of employment the Arkansas State Police Commission, with satisfactory proof of that fact, a death benefit in the sum of $25,000 shall be paid to the spouse or in the case no spouse survives, the death benefit shall be distributed equally among the officer’s children.

For more information contact the Arkansas State Police Commission, 1 State Police Plaza DR, Little Rock, AR 72209. Office: (501) 618-8000. [https://asp.arkansas.gov/](https://asp.arkansas.gov/)

The ARKANSAS CRIME VICTIMS REPARATIONS PROGRAM, administered by the Office of the Attorney General on behalf of the Crime Victims Reparations Board, provides financial compensation to victims who have suffered personal injury or death as the result of violent crime. Eligible victims may qualify for up to $10,000 for medical care, counseling, lost wages, funeral expenses, crime scene clean up and loss of support for dependents of deceased victims.

Victims may apply for compensation by submitting an application to the Attorney General’s office. Call (800) 482-8982, email oag@arkansasag.gov, or visit [https://arkansasag.gov/](https://arkansasag.gov/).

SOUTHERN STATES POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION, INC. 

The PBA member’s beneficiary will receive their base salary for one if year they are killed accidentally or intentionally while performing their law enforcement duties (maximum payout: $60,000). The beneficiary will receive $5,000 if it is not an occupational death or if you are a retired or reserve member. Any active Southern States PBA member in good standing and dues current will receive this benefit.


The 100 Club [https://the100club.org/](https://the100club.org/)

First Responders Children’s Foundation provides financial support to children who have lost a parent in the line of duty as well as families enduring significant financial hardships due to tragic circumstances. They also provide annual education scholarships to children of fallen heroes. For more information, call (646) 822-4236 or visit [https://1strcf.org](https://1strcf.org).

OTHER BENEFITS TO ASK YOUR AGENCY ABOUT:

City life insurance?
Private life insurance?
County & Local Jurisdiction Benefits?
Real Estate Tax Relief?